MANILOW MOOD

I thought it worth including a little chordal composition based on Barry Manilow's style because there are several devices he employs in most of his songs (or at least in his arrangements of songs)

- Very often they change key several times which creates tension and movement that wants to be 'resolved'. The keys move upwards which builds the song up in an emotional way.

- He uses a lot of slash chords. ie C/D. They will either be written as slash chords OR as 9, 11 or sus4 chords. But basically it's the formula on page 4.

- He often employs a 3 beat slash chord pattern where the vocal gets drawn out and is quite dramatic (you've heard Frank Sinatra doing it a million times) You will see this used at the start of songs and then just before certain verses or the chorus.

- Notice also the bass runs that lead onto the next chord.

- He also uses CLUSTER chords (we'll look at these later) again to create a bit of dissonance and tension

Try the next tune and see if you can spot all these devices. Then try writing your own Manilow-style song.

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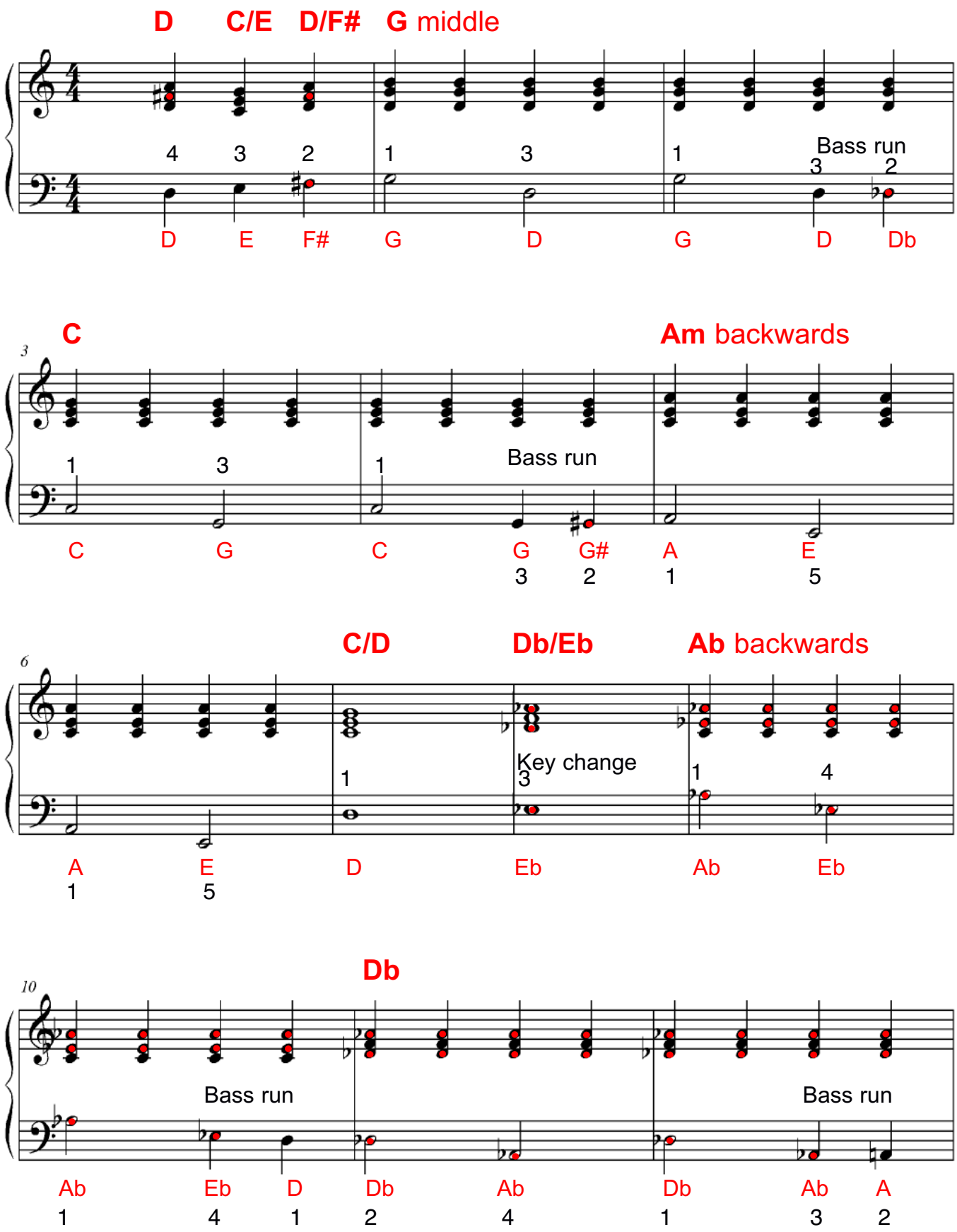
page 1

Rhythm - Oom Pah

D C/E D/F# G middle
4 3 2 1 3 1 Bass run 3 2
D E F# G D G D Db
C Am backwards
3
1 3 1 Bass run
C G C G G# A E
3 2 1 5
C/D Db/Eb Ab backwards
6
1 Key change 3 1 4
A E D Eb Ab Eb
1 5
Db
10
Bass run Bass run
Ab Eb D Db Ab Db Ab A
1 4 1 2 4 1 3 2

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page 2